

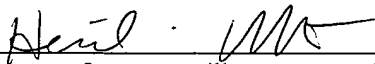


PATENT
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Heidi Wright
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Signature of person mailing correspondence

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Frederick M. Ausubel et al.	Art Unit:	1645
Serial No.:	09/975,719	Examiner:	Mark Navarro
Filed:	October 10, 2001	Customer No.:	21559
Title:	VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES AND USES THEREOF		

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REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the final Office action that was mailed in connection with the above-captioned patent application on June 24, 2004, applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.